Bradford Pear *Pyrus calleryana*

Description and Biology

- **Plant**: grows 30 to 50 feet tall and 20 to 30 feet wide; exhibits rapid growth (12 to 15 foot increase in height over 8 to10 years); has a short to moderate life span (25 to 30 years).
- **Leaves**: simple, alternate, deciduous, shiny green and leathery with round-toothed margins; turn mahogany-red and sometimes bright orange-red in late autumn.
- **Flowers, fruits and seeds**: produces showy white flowers in the spring before the leaves expand; small, round, brown fruits appear during late spring and summer.
- **Spreads**: by seeds that are dispersed to new locations by starlings and other birds that eat the fruits.

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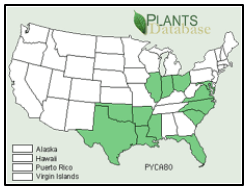
Leaves & Fruit

Flowers



Distribution and Ecological Threat
Bradford Pear is a native of China. Grown throughout the United States, Bradford pear grows best in full sun but will tolerate partial shade and a variety of soil types and conditions, including occasional wet soils or drought. New hybrids produce viable seeds through cross-pollination with the Bradford cultivar. The descendents are aggressively invading natural and disturbed open areas, displacing native plant communities and disrupting natural succession.

Prevention and Control
Do not plant Bradford pear. Seedlings and shallow-rooted plants can be pulled when soil is moist. Small trees need to be dug up or pulled out using a Weed Wrench®, ensuring removal of the root system. Large trees should be cut down and stumps treated with an appropriate systemic herbicide (e.g., glyphosate or triclopyr), following label directions, or ground up to prevent resprouting. If cutting is not possible, trees can be girdled during the spring and summer, by cutting through the bark all around the trunk, about 6" above the ground.

Native Alternatives: black haw (*Viburnum prunifolium*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*), redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), fringetree (*Chionanthus virginicus*), & southern arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Reference:www.invasive.org,